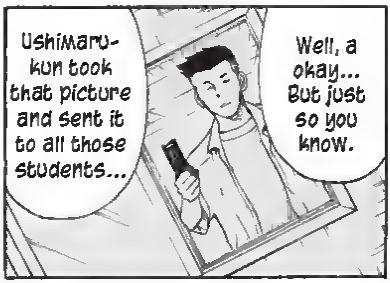
A second-year at London Academy High School.
I'm Takeru Wajima.
SHERLOCK BONES
I was just an average high school student until I brought my new dog Sherdog home from the shelter.
Believe it or not, the dog is the reincarnetion of the legendery detective, Sherlock Holmes!!
And there's an old pipe that he says belonged to Holmes.
When he puts it in his mouth, he can communicate with human speech!
i barely had time to get over the shock, when,
before I knew it,
Sherdog witnessed a terrible crime...

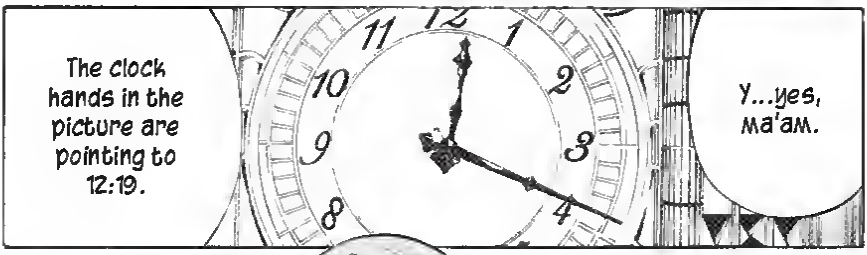
Case 1 ⚜ The 12:20 Witness, Part 3

WAS SHER-DOG.
AND NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE TESTIMONY FROM A DOG.
THE ONLY ONE TO SEE KIKUCHI-SENSEI COME OUT OF THE BATHROOM...
But...
GLANCE
SOME WAY TO GET HER TO CONFESS!!
...
SO I HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY...
Don't tell me you think I did it?
GULP
?!
What's the matter? Why do you look so serious?
Wajima-kun.
I-I just wanted you to help me work it all out!
Of...of course I don't!


Ushimaru-kun took that picture and sent it to all those students...
Well, a okay... But just so you know.

...Hmm?

SNAP
At 12:19, remember?


The clock hands in the picture are pointing to 12:19.
Y...yes, ma'am.

If you really want to play detective...
SS
But I was at the pool until class ended at 12:20.
Teaching your class.
Y...yes, ma'am.

...
Then my alibi is sound.
Now go home, Mr. Super Sleuth.

...Hey, Sherdog.

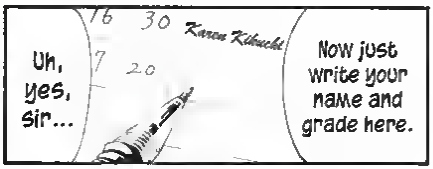
What?!
R...right now?
Let's go have a look at that pool.
STRAWBERRY
LONDON

That's Sherlock.
Do you think... Maybe... Kikuchi-sensei is innocent? She does have an alibi...
Yeah. Right.
...
SHIP

Yes, sir. So I'd like to borrow the keys...
Let's see, it's...17:20.
Yeah, that's fine.

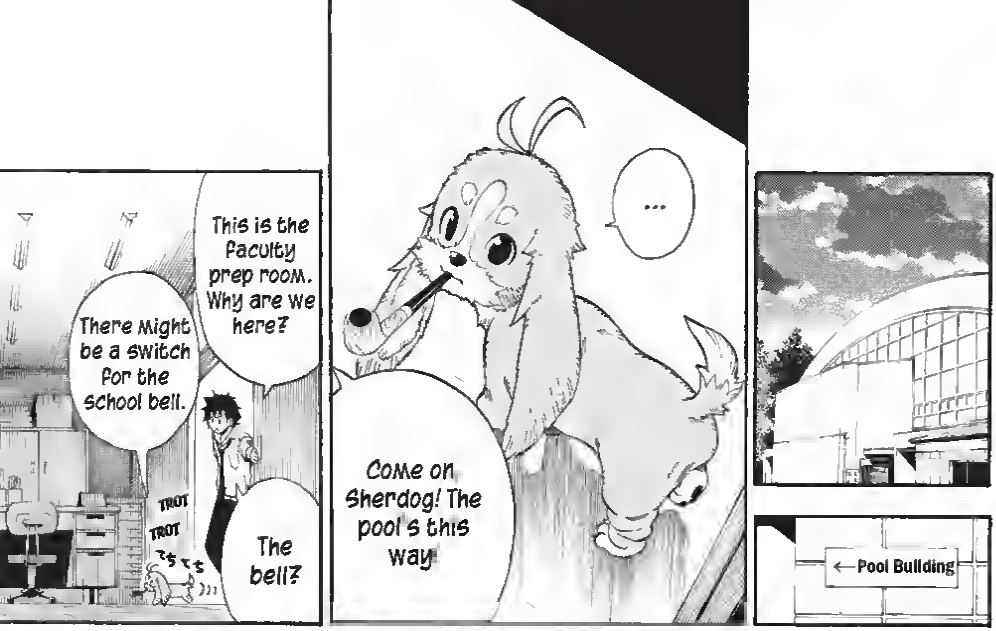
Security
You left something at the pool?

? What about it?
ARF
ARF
Look, Watson! See when our dear Miss Kikuchi returned the keys.


Uh, yes, sir...
Karen Kikuchi
Now just write your name and grade here.

HM?
The last person to have the keys was Karen Kikuchi...

...
ARF
Don't you see? It means...
ARF
Oh! I get it!!


This is the faculty prep room. Why are we here?
There might be a switch for the school bell.
TROT TROT
The bell?
...
Come on Sherdog! The pool's this way.
←Pool Building

?!
No way!
Yes. If, for example, it were possible for her to ring the bell five minutes early,
Then she could commit the murder without anyone noticing.

The school pool is in a separate building from the classrooms.
Furthermore, the restroom where the murder was committed
She could have ended class early without the other students' knowledge.
is close enough that she could run there in a minute or less.
...B-but...
If she had five minutes, I believe the murder would have been quite possible.
How about this as a possibility?
MUNGLE MUNGLE MUNGLE MUNGLE
!
What's that?
A microphone. To make announcements to the pool building...
...
...I see.
But she couldn't ring it at the wrong time.
But, it still doesn't work! She might be able to turn the bell off with a switch.
GLANCE
GLANCE
Hmmm... Quite so...

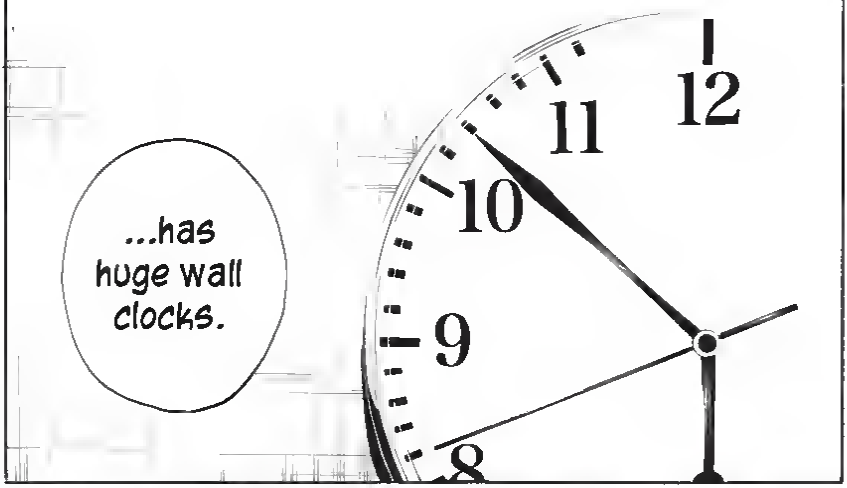
People wouldn't look at the time from the pool.
Yeah. And we do have someone collect all the phones and watches and put them in a locker.
But...
Oh!
That would get her around the time difference...!!
I...I get it...
Then let me ask you this: did you get the text message from Ushimaru?
Huh...? Er, now that you mention it...
If everyone's phone went off at the same time, the kid collecting them would definitely notice.
There's still the text from Ushimaru!
The one from 12:19.
If everyone's out of class five minutes early, they'd get it while they were changing.
RING
ALING
RING
ALING
RING
Valuables
Hmm... Then perhaps...
I didn't get it!
He should know my number...

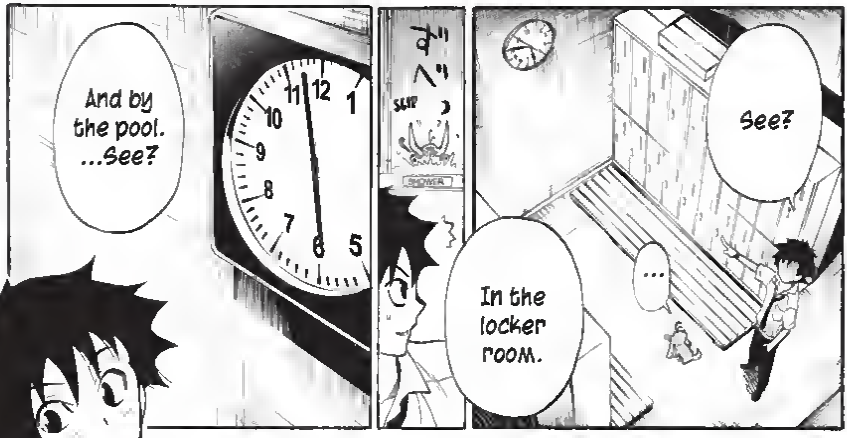
No one in your class received the message.
That would ensure...
...That Karen Kikuchi's time trick would work.

...But...
...

...

We could have checked the time... The pool building...
What?
But she just couldn't have, Sherdog.


...has huge wall clocks.


And by the pool. ...See?
SLIP
SHOWER
In the locker room.
...
See?

With two gigantic clocks like these.
If they were both five minutes off,
I'm pretty sure someone would notice when they came into the building or when they left.
...No Quite the opposite
Huh?

That's how she did it! I have it!!
I know how the murderer created the time difference!!
?!
LEAP!

She overcame the five minute hurdle
by dividing it up!!
She divided the hurdle ...?
Precisely so! You see...
TMP

What are you doing here?
?!
K...
Kikuchi-sensei!!

Watson... you know what to do.
It's up to you now!

You are incorrigible... Are you still playing your little detective game?
Uh, no, um...
I will get you off of campus by force if I have to.
TUG
STEP
STEP

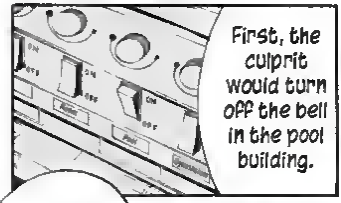
Arf arf!

Sensei.
I have a question!
...YEAH! I KNOW.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, SHERDOG!!

16. 30
SHOJI TAKAHASHI
ICHIRO YAMADA
KAREN KIKUCHI
So why were you walking around with the pool keys until 4:30?
No one was supposed to be here after 12:20...
I thought fourth period was the last pool class.
TWITCH
...What is it?
Building Door
Security Room
Pool
Locker Room (Boys)
Locker Room (Girls)
You forgot this clunky pile of keys?
RATTLE
Are you referring to the checkout sheet in the security room? ...I forgot to return them.
I had them in my sweat-pants pocket.
Did you forget to return them every day for a whole month?
Why would you keep them every day...for the last month?
...!
About a month ago, you suddenly started returning the keys at 4:30.
All the records before that say you returned them right after the last class.

...happened during swim class.
TUMP
As I've told you several times, Ushimaru-kun's suicide...
...
rehearsing the murder!
she kept them... because she was...
...Wajima-kun.
she came back to set the clocks back to the right time!!
And today...
What?
ended, say, five minutes early?
And what if that class
That person could use those extra five minutes to kill Ushimaru...
What if someone set the clock ahead five minutes,
If that person were at the pool for fourth period!
and made the bell ring five minutes early to match it?

They wouldn't have to make the bell ring early.
...Impossible. The bell rings from the main building.
No one could make it ring early for just the pool...


First, the culprit would turn off the bell in the pool building.

Then instead, they would use the Microphone in the prep room
To play a pre-recorded school bell on a timer.

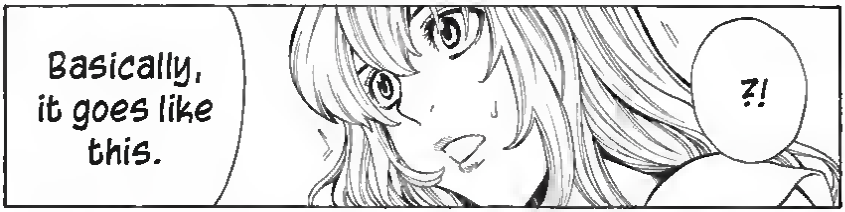
They would just have to turn it off.

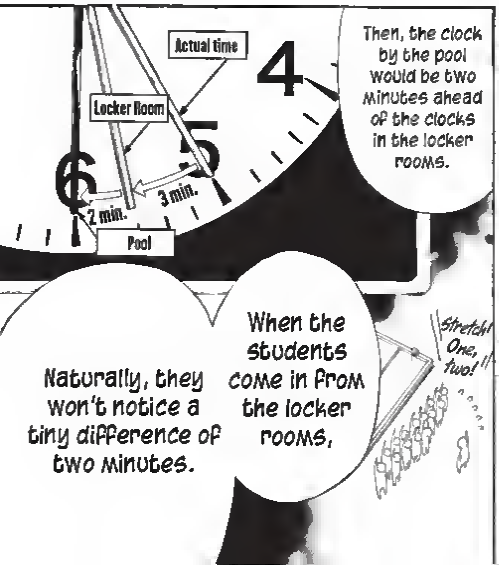
...
But the bell isn't the only problem.
CREAK

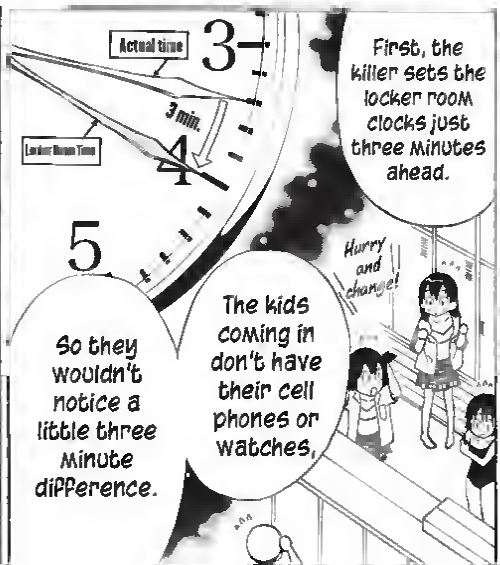
So the bell from the other building would be completely inaudible.
The pool building is sealed tight. All the sound inside it echoes pretty loudly.

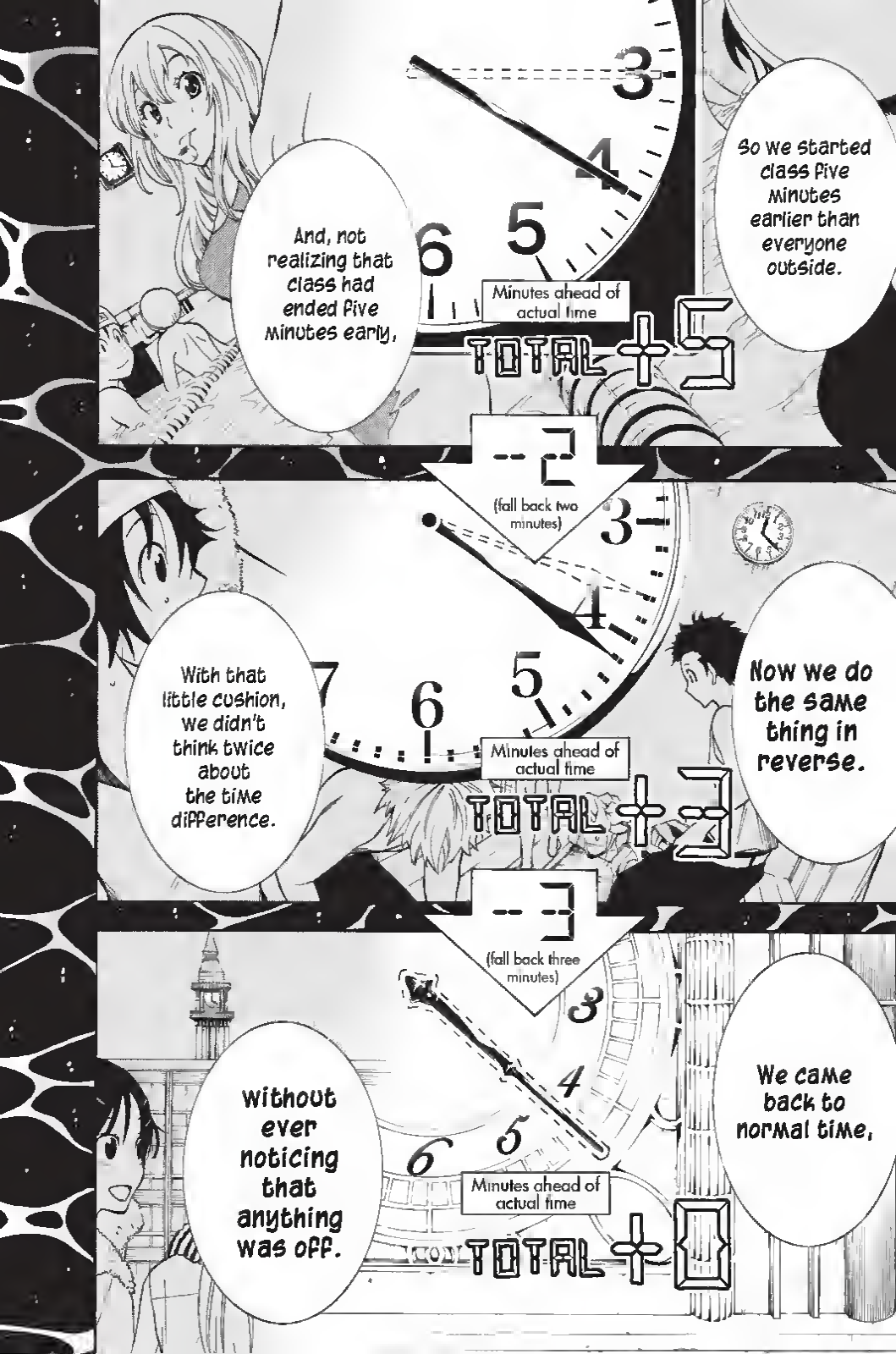
There are big clocks here and in the locker rooms.
If he did that, then someone entering or leaving the building would notice.
The killer would have to set them five minutes ahead of everywhere else.
Five minutes is a pretty big difference.
True...
And if someone noticed the difference, then no more alibi.
...
Hmm... Well...
See? So...
But if it were two or three minutes?
Maybe no one would notice.
Maybe in five, but...
But no one could have committed that murder in two or three minutes.

And split them up.
Right. That's why the killer
Took those five minutes

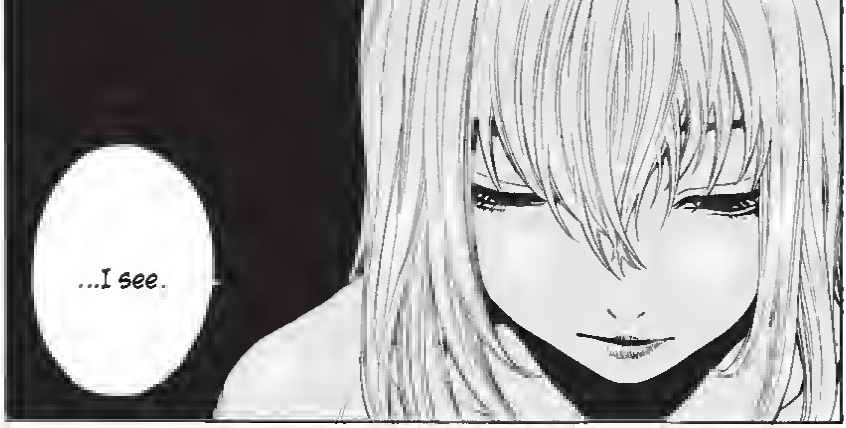

Basically, it goes like this.
?!


Actual time
Locker Room
2 min.
3 min.
Pool
Then, the clock by the pool would be two minutes ahead of the clocks in the locker rooms.
When the students come in from the locker rooms,
Stretch! One, two!
Naturally, they won't notice a tiny difference of two minutes.


Actual time
3 min.
Locker Room Time
First, the killer sets the locker room clocks just three minutes ahead.
Hurry and change!
The kids coming in don't have their cell phones or watches,
So they wouldn't notice a little three minute difference.


And, not realizing that class had ended five minutes early,
So we started class five minutes earlier than everyone outside.
Minutes ahead of actual time
TOTAL +5
-2
(fall back two minutes)
With that little cushion, we didn't think twice about the time difference.
Now we do the same thing in reverse.
Minutes ahead of actual time
TOTAL +3
-3
(fall back three minutes)
without ever noticing that anything was off.
We came back to normal time,
Minutes ahead of actual time
TOTAL 0

That's how the killer created an empty bubble of five minutes.
That's how he killed Jōya Ushimaru.


...I see.

If this is how the murderer did it, then they had the bell set up on a timer in the prep room.
Huh?
Did did you see it?

I went to the prep room right after class...
...But I still don't quite understand.
Did you see anything?

You can do it!
You didn't? Why not?
I just remembered... I didn't really go to the prep room...

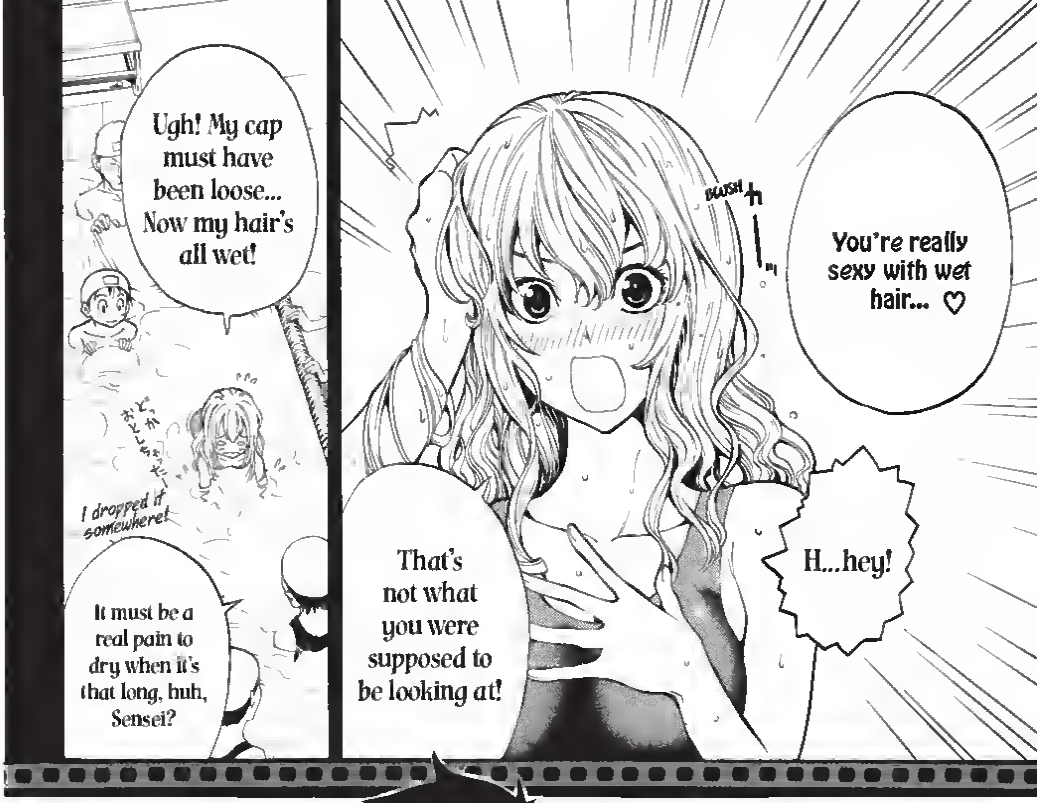
...
...
Corner her!
That's it, Watson.

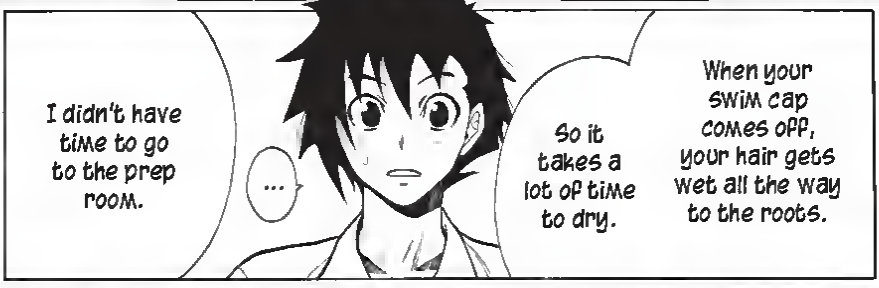
WELL, YOU SEE...
Sen–
GRAB
!!

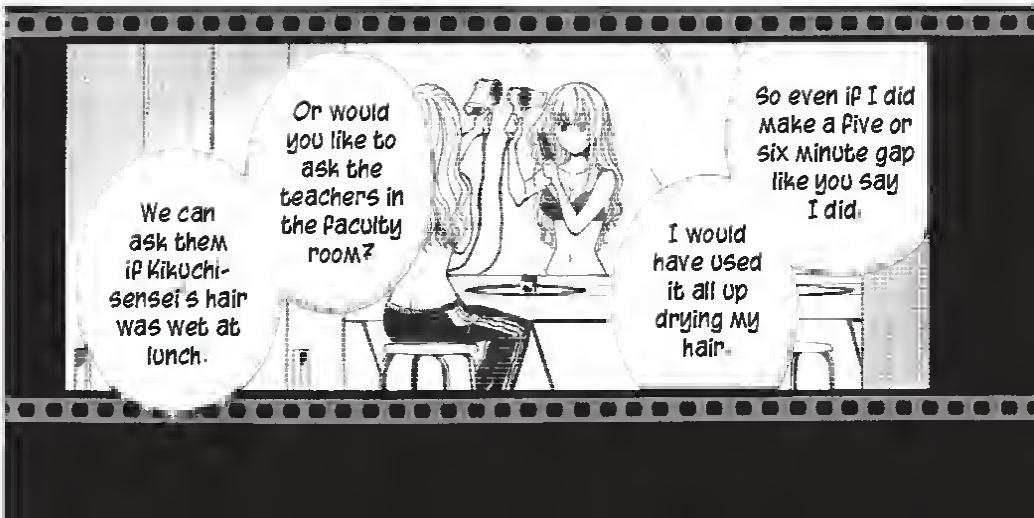
B-DMP
Careful, careful...You don't want to fall in.
You can't swim, Wajima-kun...
B-DMP
B-DMP
...th... thanks.
All right.
Let's go home now.
ぽん
B-DMP

I almost forgot.
Huh?
Oh.
That's right.
Ah ha ha... What is it?
The reason I wasn't in the prep room.
She's taken complete control of the situation.
CLAP
Sh... shut up! And I'm not your assistant!
GRRRR!
...Pull yourself together, man! You're a famous detective's assistant! You can't let a little threat cow you!

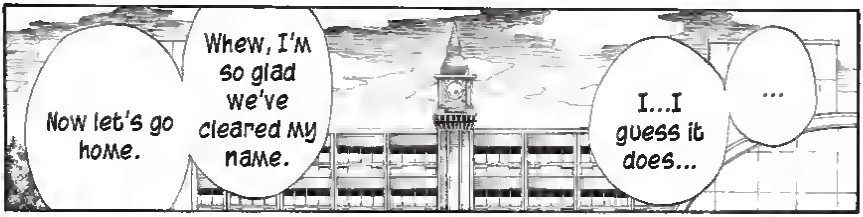
...
Oh, right! You were so gracefull! Ha ha ha. Like a mermaid.
You remember. During fourth period, I was showing you how to do the crawl.
J-Sensei...
MUMMUR...!
!
SSH
Whew.
Did you get that, my little non-swimmers?
And...
TMP


Ugh! My cap must have been loose... Now my hair's all wet!
I dropped it somewhere!
It must be a real pain to dry when it's that long, huh, Sensei?
That's not what you were supposed to be looking at!
PUSH
You're really sexy with wet hair... ♡
H...hey!


I didn't have time to go to the prep room.
...
So it takes a lot of time to dry.
When your swim cap comes off, your hair gets wet all the way to the roots.


We can ask them if Kikuchi-sensei's hair was wet at lunch.
Or would you like to ask the teachers in the faculty room?
I would have used it all up drying my hair.
So even if I did make a five or six minute gap like you say I did.

So I think you'll have no trouble getting testimony.
Hair that wet is sure to have been noticed.
Well? Don't you think that counts as an alibi?


Now let's go home.
Whew, I'm so glad we've cleared my name.
I...I guess it does...
...

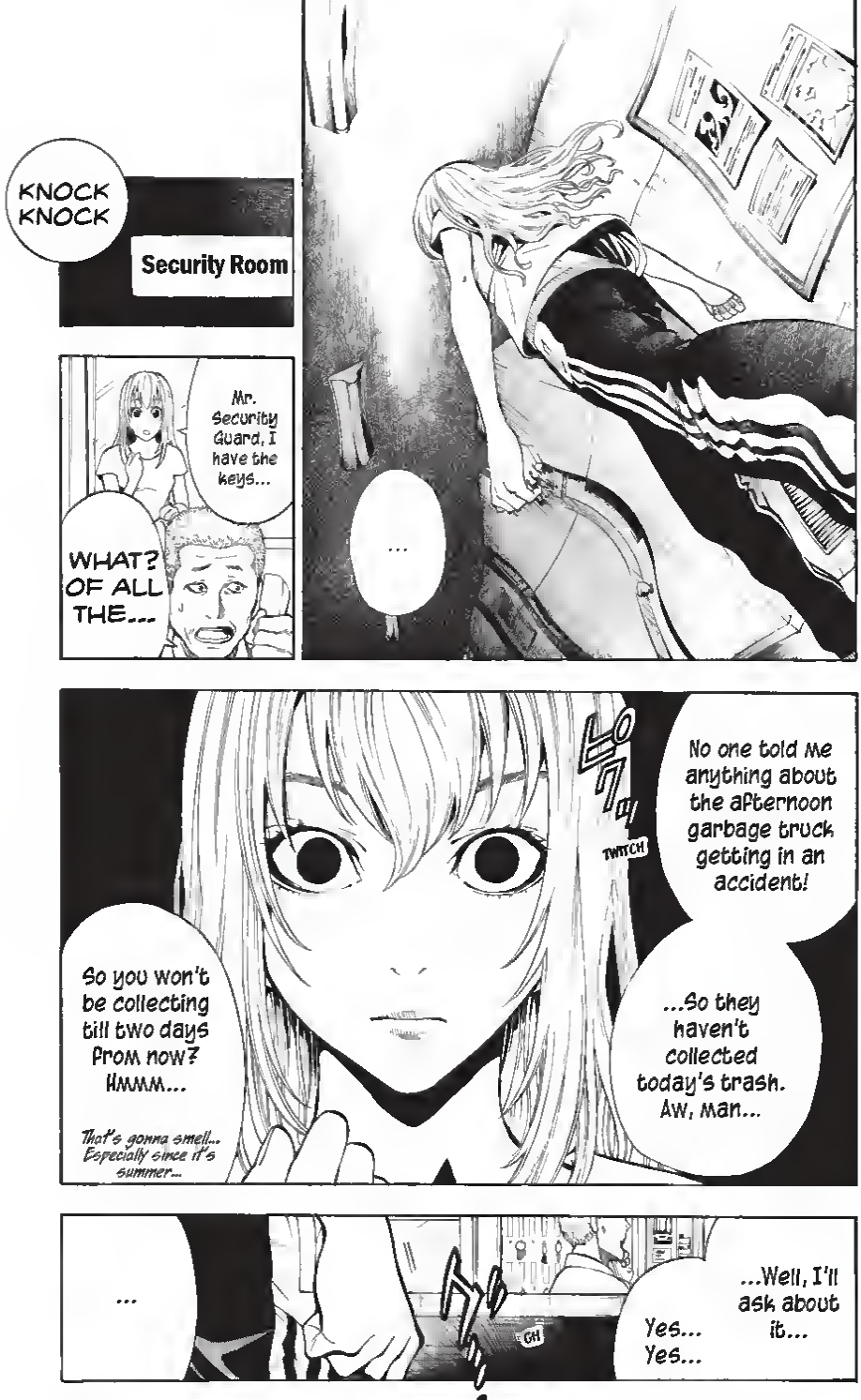
ARF ARF!
ばっ
BARK
What?
Sh-Sherdog! What's gotten into you?!
You're acting like a dog!
PATTER
PATTER
LONDON

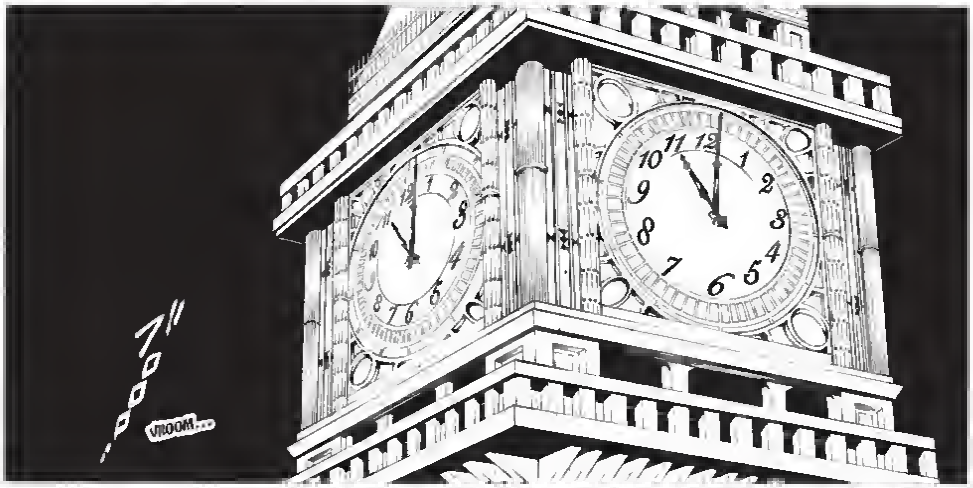
H-HEY. SHER-DOG.
Are you sure Kikuchi-sensei is guilty?
...Arf.

Waah?!
レモン
BAM!
RRRRAAAGH!
STOMP STOMP STOMP
I don't know! He took my shoe! Come back here!
Sherdog! What are you doing?!
Wh... what's wrong, Wajima-kun?

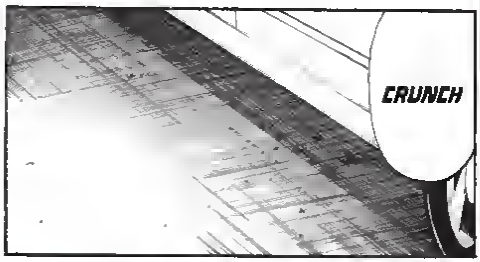
May... Maybe I was imagining it all...
You little—!
WHIMPER WHIMPER!
PATTER
PATTER
...Huh?
GLANCE
WHIMPER...
BAM
BAM
BAM
...
I...I think he has reason to be angry...
Just because I forgot to feed him for a day!
This stupid dog! He threw my shoe down the garbage chute!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
Aaaaaaahhh!
TEP
TEP
Wh-what's wrong, Wajima-kun?

Um, I hate to ask, but if you don't mind...
It should be in the dumpster downstairs...
Eh heh...
What?! Rummage through the trash...?
I'll just have to come early tomorrow to rummage through the trash...
Sigh... Fine. It's too dark today.
GLOOM
STAGGER STAGGER
Well... Goodbye, Kikuchi-sensei...
Huh? ...Sure...
Pool
RATTLE
It's hard to walk around in just one shoe... Sorry...
Would you take these keys back to the security room?
MUTTER
...IT'S OKAY.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM...
THE GARBAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN...
...


KNOCK KNOCK
Security Room
Mr. Security Guard, I have the keys...
WHAT? OF ALL THE...
...
TWITCH
No one told me anything about the afternoon garbage truck getting in an accident!
...So they haven't collected today's trash. Aw, man...
So you won't be collecting till two days from now? Hmmm...
That's gonna smell... Especially since it's summer...
...
CH
Yes... Yes...
...Well, I'll ask about it...


VROOM...

SHUT


CRUNCH

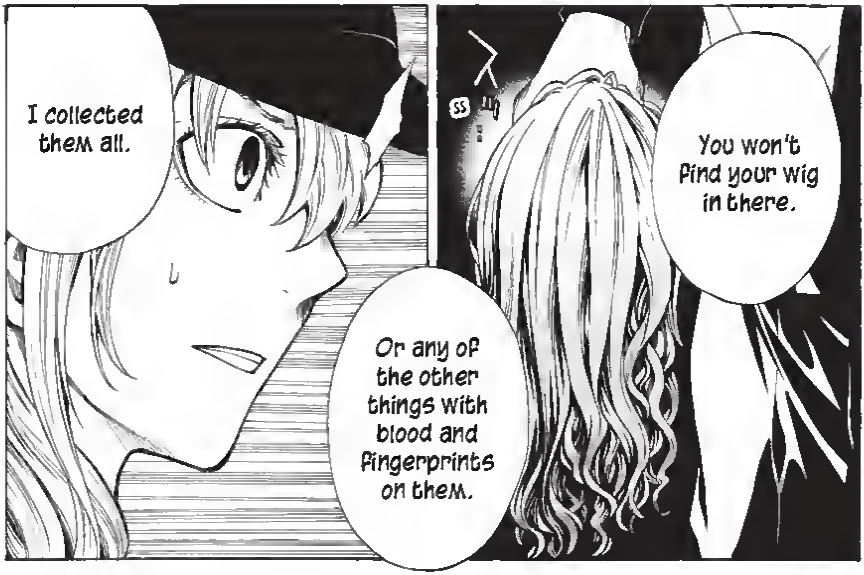
KREE

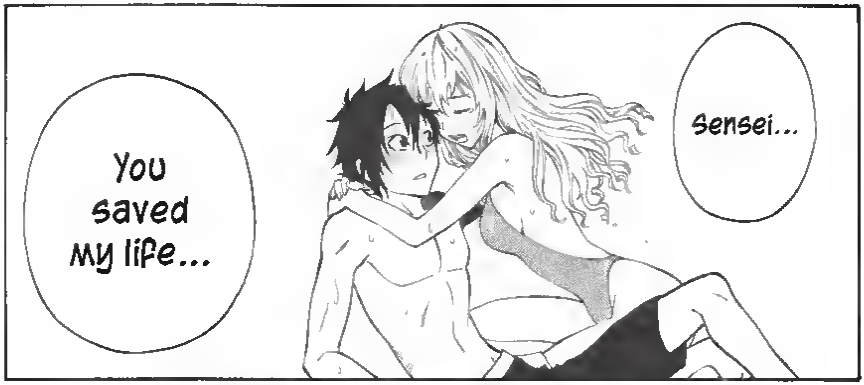
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

CREAK
Here it is...
What are you doing there?
FLASH
WINCE
!!

Kikuchi-
sensei?

Wajima...
...kun...


I collected them all.
Or any of the other things with blood and fingerprints on them.
SS
You won't find your wig in there.


You saved my life...
Sensei...

I prayed...
...that I wouldn't see you here.
I wanted to believe it wasn't you...
All this time...

Please turn yourself in!
Kikuchi-sensei!!
...